



Year 11 Careers Newsletter: Friday 3rd March 2023

Happy return, Year 11

How was your half term break? Although maybe not quite as exciting as our skiers, I am sure that you all enjoyed the time away from school. I know that you need no reminder that March mocks are about to start; your last dry-run before the final summer exams. Quite a daunting thought. Reflect on the December mocks and what you learned from the experience. I am sure that you have echoed this in the form of targets you have set for the final mocks this month. I don't expect to hear any of you respond to my question during Careers appointment, "How do you feel about your mock results?" with "I didn't really revise!" This should never have been a response, even more so at this late stage.

Following on from the theme of Careers appointments, I will be freezing the Year 11 schedule until after the mock exam period. However, if you do wish to speak to me, you all know that you always can, whether 1:1 by dropping into my teaching room, CO, or via email. Many of you regularly do this. Both of my classroom doors are always wide open for you, Year 11!

Another point regarding Careers appointments, is that during a recent meeting with a student, I was amazed to hear, and not pleasantly so, that this Year 11 had applied for a college course, without even having visited! I have explained the importance of attending Open events, and not just to one course provider. By visiting several, you gain a better idea of the differences between colleges, course content and the overall experience you will have. I know from my own college days that there were significant differences between the college I attended and those I visited during Open events. I based my decision as to where to apply on my visits to Open events. Some of you have even taken it a step further and spoken to friends and relatives who attend local colleges. The more information and feedback you can gain, the clearer the picture of college life you will have. Please, Year 11, I really do not want to hear of any of you applying for a course without visiting the provider.

The last point I wish to make regarding college applications is that despite my repeated requests to do so without delay, the colleges are not reporting that many more of you have done just this, since the last time they provided me with data. This is a real worry. You have all been told via the newsletter, college assemblies and TFTD, the importance of applying asap. One of the local colleges has closed applications already and you were told about this during an assembly. Applying to college is not like going to school. You do not gain a place on a course simply because you have made a request and you have met the entry requirements. If the course is particularly popular, e.g. Criminology, Psychology, English, PE based or vocational, competition for places will be fierce. I won't repeat my advice: 'Don't delay, apply today!' again. As I said in two previous newsletters, Shropshire Council have made a request for where you are all intending to go after you leave school in July. If you know where you wish to go and what you want to study, even if you are undecided between more than one course or college, this will be sufficient information, for now. Those of you who have no idea, despite me asking you to make a Careers appointment, will have to put this on the online form and the Council will contact me and you.

Stay focussed. The road ahead is not as far as it was!

Mrs Griffiths-Jones